

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

Education Committee

LOCATION

**Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference**

Meeting Date

**January 16, 2014
1:30 p.m.**

Attendees:

Taylor Gregg – chair
Margaret Kossler – co-chair
Terese Kashi
Angie Fraize
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Kim McNamara
Don Enoch
Sam Jordan
Justine Sheehan

Community Members:

Janel Keplinger
Patrick Pillai
Starr Marsett
Ernie Manzie

Staff:

Christie Reinhardt

Prepared by:

Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 1:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Welcome from the Chair

Taylor Gregg welcomed the committee members and guests to the meeting.

Announcements and Good News

Taylor Gregg announced the good news that her cousin, who had a bone marrow transplant, has been healthy for two years, which is good news for her cousin and the entire family.

Christie Reinhardt announced the personal good news that she sold her house.

Approval of the Agenda and Past Meeting Minutes

Angie Fraize **MOVED** to approve the agenda as written. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Terese Kashi **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2014 meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence reported at the meeting.

Reports

Chair's Report

Taylor Gregg reminded committee members that the Governor's Council meeting will be held in Juneau January 21st through January 24th, 2014. There is a Council retreat scheduled for Monday, January 20th. The three issues the Council will be looking at are Employment First, restraint and seclusion legislation, and funding for the CBC. Public testimony is scheduled for Wednesday, January 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

SESA Report

Patrick Pillai reported that SESA has nothing new to report this month, and they are continuing with their usual operations.

EED Report

Don Enoch reported that the Department activities for the near future include a stakeholders meeting in Anchorage and the Governor's Council meeting in Juneau. January 24th and 25th they will be attending the Stone Soup Conference and an RTI Conference with the Anchorage School District. January 27th through the 29th, the Department will be in the Mat-Su Valley doing compliance monitoring. After that, they will be working on intensives until the Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference, which is scheduled for February 8th – 14th, 2014. Don encouraged committee members to consider attending the ASSEC Conference. Christie Reinhardt reminded members to contact her if they are interested in attending the ASSEC Conference so the Council can make arrangements.

Board of Education

Janel Keplinger reported the Board of Education has a meeting scheduled for January 28th, 2014 where they will be discussing norm reference testing and reporting, the statewide residential schools, and school accreditations.

Janel Keplinger noted that the Board of Education has a contract for their new assessments called AAI, Assessment and Achievement Institute of Kansas. It is going to be a five-year contract, and they will be charged with creating a custom assessment for grades 3 through 11 that will be in alignment with Alaska's new state standards. They are planning on having the summative tests administered in spring of 2015. It is going to be a custom, computer-based assessment and a paper assessment for districts that are not ready for a computer-based assessment.

The Board of Education has their March meeting scheduled for March 13th - 14th, 2014 in Juneau.

Old Business

FASD Work Group Update

Christie Reinhardt reported that the FASD work group identified a doctoral candidate who would be willing to do the needs assessment for FASD as part of her doctoral thesis. Christie noted that at their last meeting, the work group identified potential focus areas as follows:

- Prevention
- Assessment and evaluation
- Education
- Employment and transportation
- FASD informed care
- Judicial, legal, and corrections systems
- FASD informed care and caregivers

The work group will begin to identify partners, one of which is the Mental Health Trust, because the Trust is looking at alcohol as a new focus area and are convening a new group and dedicating funds to this focus area, specifically prevention. The work group is also discussing with the Council whether they should remain a work group or become an ad hoc committee, and the pros and cons related to each of those entities.

New Business

Restraint and Seclusion Bill

Christie Reinhardt reported that the restraint and seclusion legislation was pre-filed and it now is House Bill 210, Keeping Schools Safe Act. Typically a bill is not named until the Governor signs it, but to ensure a positive view on the bill and represent the outcome, Keeping Schools Safe Act was chosen as opposed to restraint and seclusion. Christie noted that the bill launched without the changes requested relating to physical escort, but it is presumed those changes will be made in committee. The Council is looking for stakeholders to provide public testimony regarding restraint and seclusion experiences. The Council is also looking for members who have representatives from their district on the Education Committee to contact

their legislators in support of the legislation. The Council has prepared position papers and will be moving forward with their advocacy piece.

Annual Performance Report

Sam Jordan led the committee members through a review of the summary of the Annual Performance Report. Sam gave a brief history of the incarnation of the report and the processes used to set goals and gather data. Sam reviewed each indicator, explaining what they represent, and whether the data reported shows a gain or slippage, and the remedies used to become compliant.

In conclusion, Sam Jordan stated that Alaska continues to be one of the only two states who have met the requirements of this reporting for the last seven years. They anticipate that they have reported correctly again this year as well. He noted that the report will be finalized and sent to the federal government February 3rd, 2014. The federal government may or may not want clarification before they make a determination that (A) you met requirements implementing IDEA, or (B) you need some assistance to meet requirements, or (C) you need intervention to meet requirements, or (D) loss of federal IDEA funding.

Sam Jordan informed the committee that the Annual Performance Report in its entirety will be posted on the Department's website after February 3rd.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

January 21st – 24th, 2014
Governor's Council Meeting, Juneau

January 24th - 25th, 2014
Stone Soup Parent Conference – "Paving for a Better Future"
BP Conference Center, Anchorage

February 5th – 8th, 2014
33rd Annual Anchorage Association for the Education of Young Children Conference (AYEC)
Hilton, Anchorage

February 8th – 14th, 2014
23rd Annual Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference (ASSEC)
Hilton, Anchorage

Christie Reinhardt noted that there is a series of autism trainings being offered by the Autism Society, and the information regarding time and place can be found on their website.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for February 20th, 2014 from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Taylor Gregg adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.